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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/679,408 Confirmation No. : 1485  
Applicants : Kazuo WATANABE, et al.  
Filed : October 7, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3726  
Examiner : To Be Assigned  
Docket No. : 029116.52830US  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : Machining Method and Machining Apparatus

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 18, 2004

Sir:

Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English-language abstracts are provided herewith for the references listed on the PTO 1449.

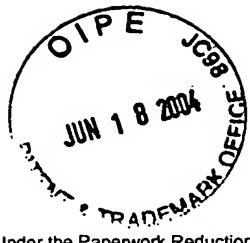
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO<br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                 |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 | Application Number       | 10/679,408      |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | October 7, 2003 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Kazuo WATANABE  |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 3726            |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | To Be Assigned  |
|   |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number   | 029116.52830US  |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                       |  |  |                                |  |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials'           | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          |  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                              |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |  |                                |  |   |
|                              |                       | US-                                      |  |                                |  |   |
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| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                       |   |  |                                |  |   |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials'              | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                                 |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |  |                                |  |   |                |
|                                 | AA                    | JP-2002166396-A   |  | 06-11-2002                     | HITACHI VIA MECHANICS LTD                          |   | AB             |
|                                 | AB                    | JP-111305819-A  |  | 11-05-1999                     | HITACHI VIA MECHANICS LTD                          |   | AB             |
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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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